



DEIR Comments DRC 2009-00025

Baxter Trautman to: mwilson

06/02/2013 04:53 PM

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I used to work for URS as a Senior Biologist and respect the work they did on the EIR. As far as resources go I have little issue with the project. My greatest concern is with the "Significant and proposed truck traffic.

I live off Parkhill and commute through Santa Margarita from Parkhill to the 101 on-ramp everyday. Since the Topaz Solar Farm traffic started last year from Santa Margarita to Carrizo, I have been run off the road three times by their traffic - twice during the morning commute and once during the evening commute. The solar farm traffic is only heavy twice a day and it is bad enough. Increasing traffic on Highway 58, with its blind corners and speeding commuters is going to increase the number of accidents on that road, and they won't all be as innocuous as merely being forced onto the shoulder.

My second concern with the increased truck traffic is for the economy in Santa Margarita. With the addition of a variety of eateries, bars, and businesses, the town is establishing itself as a viable destination for locals as well as a tourists. Trucks grinding through past shoppers and outdoor eating/drinking areas would be injurious to the charm and ambiance the community is trying to create.

I urge you to either limit truck traffic by at least half, which I did not see as an alternative in the EIR, and if the project must go through, I would recommend the Narrow Cut Alternative to minimize impact to quarry neighbors, and cannot urge you strongly enough to choose the ACCESS ROUTE to SR 58 VIA HANSON QUARRY alternative. While it would not limit the truck traffic thru town it would at least ease it in the most dangerous spots, i.e. school crossings and SR 58.

( As El Camino Road is already a designated truck route, no matter how the trucks get to El Camino would it be possible alternative to route all the quarry traffic north to the Santa Barbara exit? That would at least eliminate their impact through town...)

While I would rather the project not go through at all I appreciate the proponent's have a right to make a living on their land, but not at the expense of the community's safety and well-being. Thank you for all your hard work and attention to this very complicated issue.

Sincerely,

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